

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

MAY 5, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 26, 2004, **GWENDOLYN WOLITSKI**, age 44, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton. WOLITSKI was sentenced to 120 months imprisonment, five years supervised release, and was fined \$500.

WOLITSKI had previously pleaded guilty to five counts in a federal indictment. Count 1 charged that from October 2002 and continuing through on or about February 27, 2003, in Jefferson County, WOLITSKI engaged in a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B); all in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

Count 2 charged that on or about December 19, 2002, in Jefferson County, Illinois, WOLITSKI possessed with the intent to distribute five (5) grams or more of crack cocaine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(B).

Counts 3, 4 and 8 charged WOLITSKI with distributing crack cocaine on three separate occasions (February 11, 2003, February 12, 2003, and February 27, 2003) in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C).

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.